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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /048 W
----------001304 292014Z /75
R 290209Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TM RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4148
INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL PERTH
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6877

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, AS
SUBJ: JULY UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS - SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT

REF: CANBERRA 5876; 4680; 2186; 3811; 2758; 2682;
2549; AND 1051

SUMMARY: THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION SHOWED ONLY A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT ACCORDING TO STATISTICAL DATA RELEASED BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS (ABS) AND COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (CES) ON AUGUST 11.

2. THE ABS DATA - TAKEN IN EARLY JULY - FOUND THAT THE NUMBER UNEMPLOYED AND SEEKING FULL TIME WORK FELL BY 4,700 (1.4 PERCENT) TO 325,800 WHICH IS 6 PERCENT OF THE FULL TIME LABOR FORCE.

3. THE NUMBER OF JOBLESS REGISTERED WITH CES DROPPED BY 464 - OR 0.1 PERCENT. THIS IS 6.2 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE.
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4. AN ADDITIONAL 52,700 WERE UNEMPLOYED AND SEEKING PART-TIME WORK - A FALL OF 9,100 (14.7 PERCENT) BETWEEN JUNE AND JULY.

5. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE COLLECTING UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ROSE 4,627 TO 290,718 BETWEEN JUNE AND JULY.

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6. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED RECORDED BY CES IS 17 PERCENT HIGHER THAN JULY 1977. END OF SUMMARY.

7. UNEMPLOYMENT SHOWED ONLY A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT ACCORDING TO DATA RELEASED BY ABS AND CES ON AUGUST 11.

8. THE ABS DATA - TAKEN IN EARLY JULY - FOUND THAT THE NUMBER UNEMPLOYED AND SEEKING FULL-TIME WORK FELL BY 4,700 (1.4 PERCENT) TO 325,800 WHICH IS 6 PERCENT OF THE FULL-TIME LABOR FORCE.

9. THE NUMBER OF JOBLESS REGISTERED WITH CES DROPPED BY 464 OR 0.1 PERCENT. THIS IS 6.2 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE.

10. AN ADDITIONAL 52,700 WERE UNEMPLOYED AND SEEKING PART-TIME WORK - A FALL OF 9,100 (14.7 PERCENT) BETWEEN JUNE AND JULY.

11. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE COLLECTING UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ROSE 4,627 TO 290,718 BETWEEN JUNE AND JULY.

12. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED RECORDED BY CES IS 17 PERCENT HIGHER THAN JULY 1977.

13. THERE WERE 21.4 PEOPLE REGISTERED FOR EACH JOB VACANCY IN JULY COMPARED WITH 23 IN JUNE.
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14. ACCORDING TO ABS A TOTAL OF 202,600 MEN AND 123,200 WOMEN WERE LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK IN JULY.

15. THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE LOOKING FOR THEIR FIRST FULL-TIME JOB FELL BY 2,700 OR 7.8 PERCENT TO A TOTAL OF 31,900.

16. CES STATISTICS SHOWED THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR PEOPLE AGED 15 TO 19 LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK ROSE FROM 16.3 PERCENT IN JUNE TO 16.4 PERCENT, OR A TOTAL OF 102,100.

17. THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR PEOPLE AGED 20 AND OVER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK WAS 4.7 PRCENT (4.8 PERCENT IN JUNE).

18. OVERALL FEMALES LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK TOTALLED 8.1 PERCENT OF THE FULL-TIME FEMALE LABOR FORCE; DOWN FROM 8.2 PERCENT IN JUNE.

19. MALES LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK IN JULY ACCORDING TO CES WERE AT 5.3 PERCENT OF THE FULL-TIME MALE LABOR FORCE; THE SAME AS JUNE.

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COMMENT - THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
MR. ANTHONY STREET GREETED THE FIGURES WITH "CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM",
WITH THE ACCENT OF VERY CAUTIOUS. HE SAID THEY WENT AGAINST
THE TREND FOR RECENT WINTERS WHICH NORMALLY SHOW A STEADY RISE.
"I WOULD EXPECT THE DROP TO CONTINUE UNTIL HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATES AND DROPOUTS COME INTO THE LABOR MARKET IN NOVEMBER".

THE OPPOSITION LEADER MR. WILLIAM HAYDEN SAID THE JULY FIGURES
POINTED TO A CRISIS OF UNPRECENDENTED DIMENSIONS. HE SAID THAT
MANY PEOPLE HAD GIVEN UP LOOKING FOR WORK AND THE REAL LEVEL
OF UNEMPLOYMENT WAS CLOSE TO 650,000 - MORE THAN 10 PERCENT
OF THE LABOR FORCE.

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"THE WAY THE FRASER GOVERNMENT IS THROTTLING THE ECONOMY, THAT
FIGURE IS HEADED TOWARD 800,000 BY NEXT JANUARY - AN UNEMPLOYMENT
RAE OF 12.5 PERCENT. EVEN THE OFFICIAL FIGURES WOULD, BY THEN,
BE STANDING AT AROUND 550,000."

MR. HAYDEN ALSO ADDED, "THAT ALTHOUGH UNEMPLOYMENT WAS REPORTED
OFFICIALLY AT OR NEAR 400,000, IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT A
FURTHER 250,000 PEOPLE HAVE DROPPED OUT OF THE LABOR FORCE,
A REFLECTION OF THE DESPERATION OF MANY UNEMPLOYED."

"THAT MEANS REAL UNEMPLOYMENT IS IN THE ORDER OF 10.5 PERCENT
OF THE LABOR FORCE".
ALSTON

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